



**November 2009
Chamber Report
Board of County Commissioners**

The Chamber was busy during the month of November fulfilling its mission to serve as the Gateway to Sumter County. Efforts to grow membership are ongoing and include a number of areas related to connecting business to community through facilitation of networking, keeping members informed on both issues and chamber events, business advocacy and providing information to the community at large.

- **Chamber Membership** continues to grow. We are pleased to report that we added 11 new members during the month of November
- **Directory-** Completion of three-year agreement with Heron Publishing for Sumter Directory containing updated information related to Sumter County is under progress and currently in the proof stages. Copy proof provided was dated and included information and events that was dated and no longer accurate.
- **Events & Meetings:** It was a busy month for ribbon-cuttings leaving one of our members to remark that “the chamber will run out of ribbon”. Events were conducted including the Chamber Lunch Exchange featuring an informational presentation on HomeTown Democracy (Sumter Chamber is opposed) that will appear on 2010 ballot. First Thursday was held at Community Bank & Trust in the Villages. The event was done in partnership with the Lady Lake Chamber of Commerce and offered extended networking for membership. Other events included a Speed Networking event which involved 30 members of the business community. Also included are a variety of other meetings that the chamber oversees including but not limited to: Marketing Committee, Chamber Business Leaders, Ambassadors, Board of Directors, Finance Committee, Events Committee, Leadership Advisory Council, Scenic Highways and Byways
- **Human Resource Training Event-** Grant received from WorkForce Central Florida in order to conduct a Workshop on Hiring, Training & Retaining Employees- Topics covered: Leadership Principles for Supervisors, ADA Employment and Employee Free Choice Act, Corrective Discipline, Social Networking for Hiring & Retaining Employees- Best Practices and Creative Problem Solving. The event was provided at no cost to members.
- **Communications-** Copy produced for publication in the following newspapers: Sumter Express, Sumter Times, Daily Commercial and Sumter Shopper. Photos and Captions for Ribbon Cuttings sent to all area papers. We continue to send our standard email communications including faxes and email notifications.

- **Board Recruitment-** Board Recruitment underway for new candidates to fulfill the mission and purpose of the Sumter County Chamber. Vacancies filled and New Board Members nominated and elected to fill 2010-2012 term
New Board Members filling vacancies include-
 - Brett Hage- Oxford Throne/Village Air & Electric
 - Brad McNeill- CW Roberts Contracting, Inc
 - Cary Cohrs- American Cement
- **Chamber Budget-** Development of Chamber 2010 budget- adjusted and approved during joint Finance and Executive Committee
- **CD** -A demo CD representing Sumter County is currently being produced in order to prepare for sales of this new chamber product which will serve as a resource for chamber members, economic development and visitors alike. Update on Demo- to be ready for review in January 2010
- **Community Resources-** The Sumter Chamber continues to provide a variety of resources to the community including answering questions from the general public related to the Sumter Community, Business Referrals and provision of Relocation packages. Approximately 240 Calls Received during the month of November.
- **Business Lead:** A business lead was generated from a local business interested in expansion and referred to e5 Solutions for financing assistance and recommendation.
- **Leadership Sumter-** Planning for third year of Leadership Sumter. Chamber is the organizing body and provides staff for Leadership Sumter. Undergoing recruitment and program planning for year three. 27 Applications received.

The Chamber continues to be represented at a wide variety of City Commission and Council meetings in an effort to fully understand the efforts of each board, city council and commission in order to be of assistance in facilitating networking while fostering a spirit of cooperation.

Submitted by
Lee Ann Carr
Executive Director
10 December 2009